

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended, and claims 2, 8 and 14 canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-18 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

As a preliminary matter, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-16 and 18.

**Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 17 Recite Patentable Subject Matter**

In the office Action mailed on September 20, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 8 and 14 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any independent claims. By the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claims 2, 8 and 14, respectively. For at least these reasons, the Applicant submits that claims 1, 7 and 13 as amended, are allowable over the cited prior art. As claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 3-6, 9-12, and 15-18, which depend from allowable claims 1, 7 and 13, are likewise allowable over the cited prior art.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,722 to Cullen, et al. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,486 to Takahashi, et al. The Applicant respectfully submits that these

rejections are now moot in view of the foregoing amendments to claims 1, 7 and 13, and the cancellation of claims 2, 8 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Conclusion**

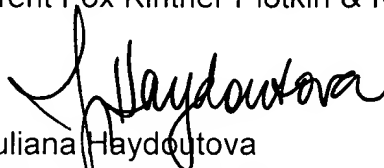
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108420-00022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliana Haydoutova', written over the printed name.

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